BANG CHAN

164 among children in Bang Chan is not known. One thing which residents of Bang Chan appeared to have in common with other [146] populations which have been reported to be relatively caries free, was low intake of sugar, particularly in a form which would be apt to adhere to the teeth.

Adults up to 44 years of age, in the random sample, retained most of their teeth. A few adults in Bang Chan have had missing teeth crowned. More sound than missing teeth were [301] found to be crowned, however, i.e. in this community a crowned tooth appears to have cosmetic value.

759 A variety of serious illnesses were found to occur among residents of Bang Chan. As a rule, local traditional practi- [164] tioners were consulted first, but most persons reported to have been seriously ill eventually received treatment by outside practitioners with some training in modern medicine.

[844] The majority of mothers in childbirth were attended by local traditional midwives, but a few difficult cases were [143] taken to the government Health Center in the nearby town of Minburi, where a trained midwife was in attendance.

465 Of 438 pregnancies reported by 84 mothers, over 90% resulted in live births. Of the 397 living children born to [163] these women, 81% survived at the time of interview. Within the first month of life, 7% had died, and a total of 11% died within the first year. Tetanus was prominent among causes of death of infants under one month of age. Infantile beriberi caused some deaths among older infants. In a majority of cases, the cause of death of infants could not be clearly identified, but fever, debility and convulsions were the symptoms most commonly described.

196 Almost half of the persons examined for possible signs of nutritional deficiency, 46% of the school children and 47% of the family sample, were free of such signs. The remainder, slightly more than one half of persons examined, had from 1 to 7 signs each. In general, more of the children and adolescents than the adults were free of possible signs of malnutrition, and the larger percentages of persons with 2 or more signs were in the groups of older persons examined. Signs most often noted, namely changes in tongue, lips, skin and hair, and absence of knee and ankle jerk, might reasonably be associated with apparent deficiencies of riboflavin, vitamin A and thiamine [164] in the diet. The only clearly defined deficiency disease observed among residents of Bang Chan during the field study was beriberi.

14 Hemoglobin values of 11.5 g or less per 100 ml. were